

a plurality of natural or synthetic feed ingredients which comprises one or more grains;

a hydroxy analog of methionine included at a level to meet the methionine needs of a ruminant wherein the hydroxy analog of methionine is selected from the group consisting of 2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid, salts, amides and esters thereof;

wherein a nutritional model evaluates the nutritional content of the ingredients other than the hydroxy analog of methionine and determines the amount of hydroxy analog of methionine within the ruminant feed ration necessary to meet the methionine requirements of the ruminant on the basis that at least 20% of the hydroxy analog of methionine is assumed to be available for absorption by the ruminant; and

wherein the milk production of a ruminant is increased by about 0 to 8%.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are in the application and stand ready for action on the merits.

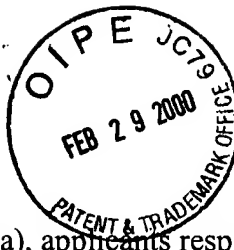
Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application in view of the remarks presented below are respectfully requested.

Claims 12-19 have been newly added. Support therefor exists in the specification as originally filed at, for example, page 6, lines 11-18; page 7, lines 9-27; page 8, lines 1-14; page 9, lines 12-18; and Example 2. Entry thereof is therefore believed to be in order, and is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting Rejection

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's double patenting rejection regarding "2-hydroxy-4-(methylthio)butanoic acid" in claim 1 and request this rejection to be held in abeyance until other rejections are overcome as they may file a terminal disclosure if it remains the only rejection.

Claims 1-11 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of double patenting over claims 1-12 of co-pending application Serial No. 08/900,414. Applicants also request this rejection to be held in abeyance until other rejections are overcome as they may file a terminal disclosure if it remains the only rejection.



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PATENT

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.17 and 1.136(a), applicants respectfully request a one (1) month extension in which to respond to the outstanding Office Action. A check in the amount of \$110.00 is attached to cover the fee for a one month extension of time up to and including today's date. Any other charges or overpayment should be applied to deposit account 19-1345.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of all claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that the foregoing AMENDMENT A, in the application of Christopher D. Knight, Serial No. 09/333,095, filed June 15, 1999, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this 25th day of February 2000.

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